

**Amendments to the Specification:**

1. Page 1, before line 3 but after the title, please insert the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2004/013254, filed November 22, 2004, which claims priority of German Patent Application No. 103 57 451.4, filed December 3, 2003.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention

2. Page 1, before line 9, please insert the following:

2. Discussion of Background Information

3. Page 14, before line 10, please insert the following:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides an active ingredient combination comprising (a) one or more compounds selected from 2,3-dibenzylbutyrolactone and derivatives thereof, and (b) licochalcone A.

In one aspect of the combination, licochalcone A may be present as an aqueous extract of *Radix Glycyrrhizae inflatae*.

In another aspect, the ratio component (a) : component (b) may be from 100:1 to 1:50, e.g., from 80:1 to 1:10. For example, it may be 20 : 1.

In another aspect of the combination, component (a) may comprise one or more of arctiin, arctigenin, prestegan B, matairesinol, tracheloside and trachelogenin.

For example, it may comprise arctiin.

The present invention also provides a cosmetic or dermatological preparation which comprises the combination set forth above (including the various aspects thereof) in combination with a cosmetically or dermatologically acceptable carrier.

In one aspect, the preparation may comprise from 0.01 % to 25 % by weight, e.g., from 0.1 % to 20 % by weight, or from 1 % to 10 % by weight, of component (a), based on the total weight of the preparation.

In another aspect, the preparation may comprise from 0.0001 % to 5 % by weight, e.g., from 0.001 % to 1 % by weight, or from 0.005 % to 0.15 % by weight, of licochalcone A, based on the total weight of the preparation.

In yet another aspect, the preparation may further comprise one or more polyols. By way of non-limiting example, the preparation may comprise from 0.001 % to 10 % by weight, e.g., from 0.01 % to 5 % by weight or from 0.05 % to 2 % by

weight, of the one or more polyols, based on the total weight of the preparation.

The one or more polyols may, for example, comprise butylene glycol.

The present invention also provides a cosmetic or dermatological preparation comprising (a) from 0.01 % to 25 % by weight of one or more compounds selected from 2,3-dibenzylbutyrolactone and derivatives thereof and (b) from 0.0001 % to 5 % by weight of licochalcone A, based on the total weight of the preparation. For example, the preparation may comprise from 1 % to 10 % by weight of component (a) and from 0.005 % to 1 % by weight of licochalcone A.

In one aspect, the preparation may comprise one or more of arctiin, arctigenin, prestegan B, matairesinol, tracheloside and trachelogenin, for example, at least arctiin.

In another aspect, the preparation may further comprise from 0.05 % to 10 % by weight, e.g., up to 2 % by weight, of one or more polyols, based on the total weight of the preparation. In another aspect, the preparation may comprise butylene glycol.

The present invention also provides methods of preventing or treating inflammatory skin conditions or for protecting the skin in cases of sensitively determined and dry skin, methods of preventing or treating the symptoms of intrinsic or extrinsic skin aging and for preventing or treating the harmful effects

of ultraviolet radiation on the skin, a method of preventing or treating pigment disorders of the skin, a method of increasing ceramide biosynthesis, and a method of preventing or treating functional disorders of skin appendages. All of these methods comprise the application of the combination or preparations of the present invention set forth above, including the various aspects thereof, to the skin or skin appendages, respectively.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

4. Page 48, first line: Please replace “**Claims**” by “WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:”